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the author's characteristic remark: "Wir sind, während unsers Aufenthalts unter Fremden nicht berufen dieselben nach unsern Nationalbegriffen zu erziehen und sie zu modeln" (S. 39). Hints of a practical character follow, pp. 42 ff. Of the multitude of objects attracting his attention the student must concentrate his energies upon those which are not attainable at home:

—die Ausbildung seiner Aussprache, seines Ohrs, seines Stils und die Aneignung gewisser sprachlicher Eigenthümlichkeiten. Um dies zu erreichen wird er den Grundsatz festhalten, seine Landsleute möglichst zu vermeiden und wesentlich nur mit Eingeborenen zu verkehren (S. 42).

In the second part of his book the author gives "eine Erzählung einiger einzelner Erlebnisse," offering the student much interesting information concerning life in England, France and Italy. The third part of the work contains words of encouragement to the modern philologist, and emphasizes the rôle which he is to perform in the solution of the problems confronting the new education. I cannot find a more fitting conclusion for the notice of this stimulating volume than the words of PROF. SCHMEDING himself: "*Wir hoffen von ihnen (den Neuphilologen) einen grossen Einfluss auf die Stellung der Völker unter einander; wir sehen in ihnen die mächtigste Friedensarmee.*"

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*The Conversation Method for Speaking, Reading, and Writing French*, intended for self-study or use in schools, etc., etc. By EDMOND GASTINEAU, A. M. New York and Chicago; Ivison, Blakeman & Co. 1888, pp. xxii, 530.

In his introduction, the author of the book before us draws support from COMENIUS, HAMILTON, LOCKE, PRENDERGAST and several other writers, and then makes a protest, not against grammar *per se*, but against making grammar the main dependence of the student in expressing himself; against obliging students to depend upon a large number of rules which they never really understand and cannot retain. To this argument our author will not encounter serious objections. MR. GASTINEAU, in this

rather philosophical introduction, actually admits that grammar is certainly indispensable to a perfect knowledge of a language. Still, he would dispense with it as long as possible, for it is the office of grammar "to complete and cap the edifice, but not to be the foundation and main support." To the first part of this statement MR. GASTINEAU will undoubtedly find many opponents. We should be willing to meet him on the dividing line and walk hand in hand with him along the golden mean.

It seems that the author has tried to enlist the sympathy of the advocates of the various systems and methods. He expresses some self-confidence in saying that while he employs the same great and natural principles as his predecessors, he avoids the mistakes committed by them. The followers of the strictly scientific method will find some consolation in the back part of the book, where about seventy-five pages are devoted to the elements of grammar.

The body of the work is divided into five parts, at the beginning of each of which a long idiomatic sentence is given with its pronunciation and translation. The method of teaching the pronunciation is a redeeming feature, the pronunciation of every French word being indicated, as accurately as possible, by English values taken from Webster. With this aid an approximately correct pronunciation may be acquired even without a teacher. The translation is of two kinds—literal and idiomatic. These long sentences are divided into clauses, which in turn are expanded into a variety of expressions. Then follows a vocabulary for use in further conversations and exercises. Notes, intended to be present answers to any queries that may arise, are given at the bottom of almost every page. The name is justified, as every portion of the work is cast into 'conversational' form.

After the student has worked his way through the five or six hundred pages of this volume, he is supposed to be able to converse on the following subjects: Arrival, Hotel and Boarding-house, Weather and City, Purchases, and Pleasures and Health, as each of the five parts is devoted to one of these subjects. In case there should be a pause in the conversa-

tion, he would at least be able to say: *Il fait chaud*, whether circumstances warranted such a statement or not.

The author's hope that an extended experience in the use of the English tongue has peculiarly fitted him for the English part of the work has, in most cases, been realized.

The book has some good qualities, and will undoubtedly do much in the line of French conversation. By the use of fine paper, clean type, good press-work and binding, it has been made attractive and pleasing to the eye.

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*A Handbook to the Land Charters and other Saxon Documents.* By JOHN EARLE. M. A., Oxford. At the Clarendon Press, 1888, 8vo. pp. cxi, 519.

What BISHOP STUBBS has done for the laws of early England in his book of 'Select Charters,' MR. EARLE has done for the land charters and wills in this valuable hand-book. The introduction is divided into three parts, the first being an elaboration of the form and structural characteristics of the land charters, of which the discussions of the grant, date and signature are especially full and valuable; the second puts forth a new theory regarding the conversion of the free village community into the feudal manor, which is the most important ray of light in this dark field since the publication of MR. SEEBOHM'S 'English Village Community' in 1883; the third treats of the two languages employed in the documents, with special reference to the English and Latin orthography. The body of the work is made up of about three hundred charters and wills, divided into two parts, primary and secondary documents, the latter being subdivided into fifteen groups, beginning with those in single parchments not contemporary with the date of the manuscripts wherein found, though none are later than the eleventh century, and closing with specimens of the rimed charters in manuscripts of the fifteenth century. In an appendix is printed, chiefly for its glossarial value, an important charter of EADGAR (972), following which are twenty-five pages of comments and annotations additional to those given in the body of the book, and a glossary

with page references. Such indexing has never before been attempted, though the number in the way here treated is small in comparison with the whole body—between two and three thousand—of extant charters. Although MR. EARLE includes no hitherto unprinted documents, yet a few have previously appeared only in the *Archæological Journal*. In this collection there can be found all that are chiefly important for the study of the social and economical institutions of England. Previous to this it has been necessary to search the volumes of KEMBLE'S 'Codex Diplomaticus,' THORPE'S 'Diplomatarium Anglicum,' or the unfinished publication of W. DE GRAY BIRCH. In this 'Handbook' each charter is arranged in chronological order with a good index, prefaced by an argument and followed by explanatory notes. A few of the important all-Saxon documents are translated.

The attention of the philologist is drawn to the charters as a neglected source of lexicographical material, particularly of the descriptive nature found in the Saxon perambulations. In these and in the all-Saxon charters the vernacular types are Kentish and West Saxon; the former traceable to 934, the latter falling into two periods represented by the names of ÆLFRED and ÆLFRIC. A number of words neglected by or unknown to previous compilers, are to be found; such as *ród*, a clearing in the forest, modern *road* (though MR. HENRY BRADLEY considers this to be the same as *ród*, modern *rood*), *ánstíg*, *hán*, *bula* and others. Discussion is renewed and much light thrown on the meaning of many topographical words, as *crundel* (p. 471), *mearc* (pp. 454-6), *híd*, (lii, liii, and 457-460), *stoc*, (463-5), *lacu* (465), *stapol* (466), *brytæn-walda* (473), *furh*, fir-tree (474, thus disproving CAESAR'S statement, 'B. G.' v, 12, "*praeter fagum atque abietem*").

To the historical student special interest will centre in the second part of MR. EARLE'S introduction. He rejects, as do all special students in this field, MR. KEMBLE'S Mark theory, and also condemns MR. SEEBOHM'S theory in its present shape, as "surrounded with an atmosphere of improbability" (p. lxi). He prefers to take the natural ground of the conservative scholar and accepts the free village community,